

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1. [Currently amended] A method for workload planning for a demanufacturing facility characterized by a plurality of customers each having unique customer specific forecasts and processing needs including critical operations, comprising the steps of:

building in computer storage a spreadsheet model for collecting and summing customer forecasts adjusted by customer unique complexity factors;

determining and entering to said spreadsheet model for each of a plurality of prospective customers, a projected volume of material for processing by said demanufacturing facility;

determining for each said prospective customer critical operations for processing said material, said critical operations including those operations required for removal of sensitive parts to prevent disclosure of confidential information, recovery of parts needed to satisfy a shortage requirement for build of other products, removal of parts to prevent their re-use, and removal of parts and materials as required by a vendor commodity purchaser;

for each said customer, initially dismantling prototype machines in accordance with said critical operations, including identifying work content and resulting

saleable, commodity, and trash items;

responsive to said dismantling, determining for each customer and entering to said spreadsheet model a unique complexity factor for processing said material, ~~including identifying any critical factors, dismantling prototype machines,~~ said unique complexity factor representing processing time divided by said volume as defined during prototype dismantling and subsequently modified by actual experience;

~~said critical factors including specific asset protection requirements, destruction, and impairment techniques, regardless of any financial benefit or cost;~~

utilizing periodic updates of said projected volume and of said ~~critical factors~~ critical operations ~~and of any other factors,~~ prior customer product shipment experience and new demanufacturing product prototyping to establish and adjust and entering to said spreadsheet model said unique complexity factor for each of said plurality of customers; and

responsive to generating in said spreadsheet model a summation of said projected volume ~~and said adjusted by said unique~~ complexity factor for each of said plurality of customers, determining staffing requirements and productivity targets for a demanufacturing enterprise for processing said material for a plurality of future periods;

determining said staffing requirements for each future period by summing staff requirements for all customers adjusted by expected absenteeism factor, fatigue factor, breaks requirements, and vacation patterns to create an adjusted staffing requirement for said demanufacturing enterprise; and to facilitate advanced warning and the time to preclude any future staffing or capacity issues

responsive to said adjusted staffing requirement, hiring and balancing staff between projects of said demanufacturing enterprise.

1 2. Canceled

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of converting said volume to weight.

1 4. Canceled

1 5. [Currently amended] The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 3,
2 said prototyping including the step of disassembly
3 prototyping.

1 6. [Currently amended] The method of claim 5, said
2 disassembly prototyping step being applied to new material
3 and further comprising the step of accumulating historical
4 data for determining said unique complexity factor for
5 previously disassembled material.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said
2 projecting step further comprising the step of determining

3 an expected number of truckloads of said material.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 5, said disassembly
2 prototyping further including the step of determining
3 salvageable and disposable content for said material of a
4 given equipment type.

1 9. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of applying said quantity projections
3 and unique complexity factors to workload planning model for
4 forecasting workload requirements for said processing; and
5 responsive to said workload requirements determining
6 staffing requirements and resource balancing between
7 projects.

1 10-11. [Canceled]

1 12. [Currently amended] The method of claim 9 ~~claim 11~~,
2 further comprising the step of periodically updating said
3 workload planning model based upon actual and anticipated
4 changes in quantity projections and complexity factors.

1 13. [Previously presented] The method of claim 12, further
2 comprising the step of calculating said productivity targets
3 for a demanufacturing enterprise using said quantity
4 projections and complexity factors.

1 14. [Currently amended] A method for forecasting staffing
2 requirements for a demanufacturing enterprise characterized
3 by a plurality of customers each having unique customer
4 specific requirements including demanufacturing complexity
5 and critical operations, comprising the steps of:

determining for each of a plurality of prospective customers, a projected volume of material returns for processing;

determining from customer specific requirements for each customer a unique complexity factor for processing said material, including identifying any ~~critical factors~~ critical operations;

~~said critical factors~~ critical operations including removal of sensitive parts to prevent disclosure of confidential information, recovery of parts needed to satisfy a shortage requirement for build of other products, removal of parts to prevent their re-use, and removal of parts and materials as required by a vendor commodity purchaser specific asset protection requirements, destruction, and impairment techniques, regardless of any financial benefit or cost factors;

converting projected material returns for each said customer to weight, multiplying said weight by a unique complexity factor determined initially by disassembly prototyping and subsequently modified by actual experience to generate a staff requirement for each of a plurality of customers, said disassembly prototyping including dismantling prototype machines in accordance with said financial benefit and cost factors and further with respect to any said ~~critical factors~~ critical operations, identifying work content and resulting saleable, commodity, and trash items, said unique complexity factor initially representing time for said disassembly prototyping divided by said

35 weight;

36 utilizing periodic updates, prior customer product
37 shipment experience and new demanufacturing product
38 prototyping to establish and adjust said unique
39 complexity factor for each of said plurality of
40 customers;

41 generating a summation of said staff requirements for
42 all customers for a given time period ~~at a plurality of~~
43 ~~future checkpoint to facilitate advanced warning and~~
44 ~~the time to preclude any future staffing or capacity~~
45 ~~issues~~, and adjusting said staff requirements for all
46 customers by an expected absenteeism factor, fatigue
47 factor, breaks requirements, and vacation patterns to
48 generate said staffing requirements and productivity
49 targets for said demanufacturing enterprise.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 14, further comprising
2 the step of executing said converting, generating, and
3 adjusting steps in a spreadsheet model.

1 16-18. Canceled

2 19. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
3 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
4 executable by a machine to perform method steps for workload
5 planning for a demanufacturing process characterized by a
6 plurality of customers each having unique customer specific
7 requirements including demanufacturing complexity and
8 critical operations, said method steps comprising:

determining for each of a plurality of prospective customers, a projected quantity of material for processing;

determining from customer specific requirements for each customer a unique complexity factor for processing said material, including, dismantling prototype machines, identifying work content including identifying any ~~critical factors~~ critical operations and resulting saleable, commodity, and trash items, said unique complexity factor representing processing time divided by said projected quantity as initially defined during prototype dismantling and subsequently modified by actual experience;

said ~~critical factors~~ critical operations including removal of sensitive parts to prevent disclosure of confidential information, recovery of parts needed to satisfy a shortage requirement for build of other products, removal of parts to prevent their re-use, and removal of parts and materials as required by a vendor commodity purchaser specific asset protection requirements, destruction, and impairment techniques, regardless of any financial benefit or cost factors;

utilizing periodic updates, prior customer product shipment experience and new demanufacturing product prototyping to establish and adjust said unique complexity factor for each of said plurality of customers; and

responsive to said projected quantity and said unique

37 complexity factor, determining staffing requirements
38 and productivity targets for processing said material
39 at a plurality of future periods;

40 determining said staffing requirements for each future
41 period by summing staff requirements for all customers
42 adjusted by expected absenteeism factor, fatigue
43 factor, breaks requirements, and vacation patterns to
44 create an adjusted staffing requirement for said
45 demanufacturing enterprise checkpoint to facilitate
46 advanced warning and the time to preclude any future
47 staffing or capacity issues.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 19,
2 said method steps further comprising the step of projecting
3 said quantity by volume.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 19,
2 said method steps further comprising the step of converting
3 said volume to weight.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 20,
2 said method steps further comprising the step of converting
3 said volume to weight, and determining said unique
4 complexity factor by prototyping.

1 23. [Original] The program storage device of claim 22,
2 said prototyping step including the step of disassembly
3 prototyping.

1 24. [Original] The program storage device of claim 23,
2 said disassembly prototyping step being applied to new

3 material and further comprising the step of accumulating
4 historical data for determining said unique complexity
5 factor for previously disassembled material.

1 25. [Original] The program storage device of claim 20,
2 said projecting step further comprising the step of
3 determining an expected number of truckloads of said
4 material.

1 26. [Original] The program storage device of claim 23,
2 said disassembly prototyping further including the step of
3 determining salvageable and disposable content for said
4 material of a given equipment type.

1 27. [Original] The program storage device of claim 19,
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of applying
3 said quantity projections and complexity factors to workload
4 planning model for forecasting workload requirements for
5 said processing; and responsive to said workload
6 requirements determining staffing requirements and resource
7 balancing between projects.

1 28. [Original] The program storage device of claim 27,
2 said method steps further comprising the step of adjusting
3 said workload requirements for absenteeism, fatigue, breaks,
4 and vacation pattern factors.

1 29. [Original] The program storage device of claim 27,
2 said workload planning model being implemented as a computer
3 spreadsheet.

1 30. [Original] The program storage device of claim 29,

2 said method steps further comprising the step of
3 periodically updating said workload planning model based
4 upon actual and anticipated changes in quantity projections
5 and complexity factors.

1 31. [Original] The program storage device of claim 28,
2 said method steps further comprising the step of calculating
3 said productivity targets for a demanufacturing enterprise
4 using said quantity projections and complexity factors.

1 32. [Currently amended] A computer program product for
2 forecasting staffing requirements for a demanufacturing
3 enterprise characterized by a plurality of customers each
4 having unique customer specific requirements including
5 demanufacturing complexity and critical operations,
6 comprising:

7 a computer readable medium;

8 first program instructions for converting projected
9 customer returns to weight, multiplying said weight by
10 a complexity factor determined as a unique complexity
11 factor for a customer responsive to customer specific
12 requirements initially by disassembly prototyping and
13 thereafter modified by experience to generate a staff
14 requirement for each of a plurality of customers, said
15 disassembly prototyping including dismantling prototype
16 machines, identifying work content including
17 identifying any ~~critical factors~~ critical operations
18 and resulting saleable, commodity, and trash items,
19 each said unique complexity factor calculated as
20 processing time divided by said weight;

21 said ~~critical factors~~ critical operations including
22 removal of sensitive parts to prevent disclosure of
23 confidential information, recovery of parts needed to
24 satisfy a shortage requirement for build of other
25 products, removal of parts to prevent their re-use, and
26 removal of parts and materials as required by a vendor
27 commodity purchaser ~~specific asset protection~~
28 ~~requirements, destruction, and impairment techniques,~~
29 ~~regardless of any financial benefit or cost factors;~~

30 second program instructions, utilizing periodic
31 updates, prior customer product shipment experience and
32 new demanufacturing product prototyping, for
33 establishing and ~~adjust~~ adjusting said unique
34 complexity factor for each of said plurality of
35 customers;

36 third program instructions for generating a summation
37 of said staff requirements for all customers; and

38 fourth program instructions for adjusting said staff
39 requirements for all customers by an expected
40 absenteeism factor, fatigue factor, breaks
41 requirements, and vacation patterns to generate said
42 staffing requirements and productivity targets for said
43 demanufacturing enterprise; and wherein

44 said first, second, third, and fourth program
45 instructions are recorded on said computer readable
46 medium.